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(WO/1999/040773) SELF-CONTAINED FLEXIBLE AERODYNAMIC CUTTING **ELEMENT WITH MATCHING HEAD**

Biblio. Data

Description

Claims

National Phase

Notices

Documents

Latest bibliographic data on file with the International Bureau

6

Pub. No.:

WO/1999/040773

International Application No.: PCT/US1999/003392

Publication Date: 19.08.1999

International Filing Date:

17.02.1999

Chapter 2 Demand Filed: 09.09.1999

IPC:

A01D 34/416 (2006.01), B29C 53/14 (2006.01)

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Priority Data: 60/074,899 17.02.1998 US 60/103,549 08.10.1998 US

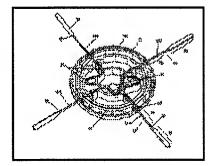
09/243,786 03.02.1999 US

Title:

SELF-CONTAINED FLEXIBLE AERODYNAMIC CUTTING ELEMENT WITH MATCHING HEAD

Abstract:

A vegetation cutter, a cutting string for use with a vegetation cutter, and a method of cutting vegetation, are provided which utilize a novel cutting string (13) arrangement in which a twist (19) and living hinge (19A) are provided in a cutting string having a drag co-efficient of less than 1.0, typically with a first long axis and a second short axis, the second axis less than 85 % of the first axis. The twist (19) is provided between the free end (79) of the string (13) and where the string is mounted to the head (76), or where two twists are provided in the string (13), the string is mounted to the head at a central portion between the twists (19). The string may be mounted to the head by grooves or slots (80) and/or clamping mechanisms, or a wide variety of other components. The cutting string may have a wide variety of cross-sectional



configurations (both symmetrical, such as elliptical, or non-symmetrical, such as substantially tear drop). The twist is typically between about 30-150°, most desirably about 90°.

Designated States:

AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX,

NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW. African Regional Intellectual Property Org. (ARIPO) (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW)

Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM)

European Patent Office (EPO) (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT,

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE,

SN, TD, TG).

Publication Language:

English (EN)